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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-233
Tuesday
7 December 1993

Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-93-233 *7 December 1993*

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Cuba

Castro Closes Construction Workers Day

PA0712000793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Report by Susana del Calvo on speech by President Fidel Castro on the occasion of Construction Workers Day in Havana on 4 December—recorded]

[Text] Construction Workers Day was celebrated in Havana this weekend to honor all of those who work in that field. Labor leaders representing construction workers in Spain and Peru were also present. Roman Martin, representing the Spanish labor groups, delivered a speech. He spotlighted the seriousness of the current situation in Cuba and the joint efforts being conducted to continue construction works in the country, particularly in priority areas like tourism, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry.

President Fidel Castro closed this important event. Here is what he said:

[Begin Castro recording] It is important to mention, above all, the quality of the work done by our workers and the completion and functioning of certain projects during this special period, when we are facing shortages of material, including fuel. We must use our resources rationally, and the most rational way to use those resources is by working on priority projects, based on one reason or the other. Above all, priorities must be based on their economic contributions.

Efforts in the construction field must have an economic value, precisely to help us overcome the special period; in other words, other projects we did in previous years, which are important and necessary for the Revolution.... [pauses] For 30 years we have been building schools, health installations, and social and economic installations. We advanced a great deal in the social area; unfortunately, after we created the conditions and had the industrial material and were capable of producing the necessary material to build 100,000 houses per year, the special period had to be instituted, and it was a hard blow on a very important area, which is housing. We are now working on the so-called low-income houses, which are good houses, and we are trying to expand housing construction throughout the country as an important activity.

This is not seen, however, as a priority. We must give priority to projects like this one, which was inaugurated yesterday. It is a high-quality and beautiful construction work, in all aspects; it is really an example. It took a little longer than planned to complete the work, but the project was not easy. It was necessary to wait for special material that was necessary, and there were other problems that delayed the project. Finally, we have completed this vaccine plant, which can produce up to 100 million vaccines a year. We have the installations and we have prestige. It is a matter of pride for the country, for experts in this field—the pharmaceutical industry, and biotechnology—because we can appreciate in this work the great progress our country has made in these specific areas. [end recording]

President Castro said we must give priority to projects as this one, the vaccine plant, and other projects in the areas of biotechnology, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and tourism, as well as social and basic economic projects that will counter the effects of the fall of the Socialist Bloc.

Fidel Castro said at this time that some of the manpower in the construction sector was transferred to other areas due to changes in the sector, as there was not enough material to continue with the same pace of construction works that existed only two years ago. He added that as soon as this problem is resolved and mass construction is resumed in the country, there will be a shortage of manpower.

Above all, we must evaluate construction workers' productivity. We must resolve the problem mainly with productivity. What happened in the construction sector has been a hard blow, because it was one of the sectors in which we were working harder, increasing the levels of organization, efficiency, productivity, and savings.

We have had to stop projects as large as the Cienfuegos Electronuclear Plant, which is very important from the energy point of view. This project would have been given priority, but its continuation did not exclusively depend on us. We could not continue the works without the necessary material and equipment that had to be received from abroad. It was a very sad decision for the project directors, who had been working there for years. It was very sad for all, but the construction of the electronuclear plant was stopped, and its completion was postponed. Most of the workers were transferred to other activities, many of them to the construction of tourist projects in Baradero; it was the sensible thing to do. These days, we have had to make very hard decisions that have been the most sensible thing we could do.

It was necessary to stop works of that magnitude that otherwise would have been given priority, precisely because it would produce electricity. We have many shortages. We have a shortage of cement due to the lack of fuel, a shortage of steel for similar reasons—lack of energy—and a lack of materials in general due to the lack of fuel. We have the factories, equipment, and everything else, but we do not have fuel. We are also facing a shortage of fuel for equipment in the thermoelectric plants, and the lack of electricity has affected other areas. It has affected construction works this year.

There were very difficult moments, when many factories were closed and constructions were paralyzed. There were times when we had to help the sugar industry. It has been necessary to send qualified workers to repair the plants. The construction industry has had a rough time, a very rough time. [end recording]

Fidel Castro said that in the future we must also follow the line of priority in construction works. He added that

in the area of biotechnology, for example, there have been many constructions during the past few years, and now this area has entered a very important phase—the commercialization of products. Castro finally said:

[Begin recording] Therefore, comrades, I join others in congratulating you. I sincerely join the well-deserved congratulations you have earned with your work this year. You have earned this recognition with actions, not words, which is what counts. Keep up the good work, doing all of your efforts and with all the necessary confidence and high morale. You must know that each drop of sweat you shed is [word indistinct] like a shot against adversity and difficulties, or one more stone in the path toward resolving the main problems we are facing. [end recording]

Raul Castro Closes Veterans Association Meeting

FL0612224093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Our journalist Eduardo Gonzalez was present at the formation of the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution, effected in the presence of our Comander in Chief Fidel Castro and of Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces]. [passage omitted]]

Upon making the closing speech at the ceremony, Raul said:

[Begin Castro recording] Joining our association is voluntary, and we have nothing to offer except a lot of work. We say to every veteran what Marti said to Gomez upon asking him, in the name of the party, to take over the leadership of the liberating army: As I was saying, I offer you today, unafraid of receiving a negative response, this new task, but I have no remuneration to offer you other than the pleasure of your sacrifice and the probable ingratitude of men. [end recording]

And the FAR minister added:

[Begin Raul Castro recording] The veterans association has a role that makes it irreplaceable. I am referring to its infinite possibilities in the work of providing our population—and especially the new generations—with patriotic, military, and internationalist education, taking into account the way veterans have historically been protagonists in the different stages of the revolutionary struggle throughout the second half of this century on the most diverse of scenes. This will permit the association's members to contribute not only their own example and experience, but also a spirit of resolve, sense of discipline, and certainty of victory vis-a-vis any new challenges we may have before us, whatever they may be. [end recording]

The 364 delegates, representing more than 300,000 association members nationwide, approved the main report. In it they state that their main goals are to worthily honor our precious historic legacy and to continue enriching it in the combat we wage today, to contribute to the education of our new generations within our glorious traditions, to unconditionally and on all fronts defend the fatherland, the Revolution, and the achievements of socialism.

The delegates also approved the statutes unanimously. These statutes include the association's priority tasks.

In his speech, Raul explained the reasons why the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution is being formed.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] In the first place, it is to defend the Revolution staunchly on all fronts.

How will each member of our Association carry out his actions? By duplicating the tasks that currently constitute the work of other institutions and organizations? No.

As has been being expressed and defined during the municipal and provincial conferences, what we must do is struggle in order that, on all of the Revolution's fronts and in all of its tasks, the Association members be outstandingly first and foremost, and that they motivate the rest through their example.

Every combatant of the Cuban Revolution must be an outstanding worker at his workplace, an active member of his Committee for the Defense of the Revolution and his Rapid Response Detachment, an enthusiastic voluntary worker according to his possibilities. He must be a worthy resident of his community, an example for his or her family as well as an example in educating his children. Let him be among the most reliable in the tasks related to the armed defense of the fatherland and the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. Let him be, wherever he lives and works or wherever he may find himself at any given time—at the end of the line for the bus or at the store, at the movies, or in the park—a firm and vigorous defender of the Revolution, capable of explaining things to he who is confused, and also capable of boldly confronting any counterrevolutionary detractor.

To stand by calmly and watch a crime being committed is akin to commiting it oneself—affirmed Marti. Never should a veteran of the Cuban Revolution impassively watch a crime being committed! He must fight such a crime, prevent it, denounce it. He must confront it. All the better if it is possible to do so with the help of other honest men and women and the competent authorities! However, should circumstances oblige him to take action alone or when outnumbered, he must not hesitate to run whatever risk necessary, with the dignity and the cunning of a figher of the Cuban Revolution; and he should always be ready for battle, ready to take on whatever mission the Revolution may assign to him. [end recording]

The association is made up of the fighters of the rebel army, the clandestine struggle, the Bay of Pigs, and the struggle against bandits; the internationalists; the fighters of the FAR and of the Ministry of Interior with

over 20 years' active service; (?and) retired or pensioned people who have kept flying the banners of the Revolution and of socialism.

Ninety percent of the Cubans who meet the requirements for being members of the Veterans Association have already joined. The association will be officially formed Tuesday, 7 December—the anniversary of the fall in battle of Major General Antonio Maceo and his Lieutenant General Panchito Gomez Toro—during a ceremony before the obelisk in San Pedro.

Honduran President-Elect on Cuban Relations

FL0412000893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Honduran President-elect Carlos Roberto Reina believes the countries on the continent should normalize relations with Cuba. Reina stressed that there should be no country left out of the Latin American system because this is a phenomenon that resulted from a cold war that has ended. Following a more than one hour meeting with Honduran President Rafael Callejas, the winner of Sunday's elections in Honduras said that relations with Cuba have been practically restored, noting the presence of a Cuban commercial envoy in Tegucigalpa.

Spanish Prosecutor General Arrives in Havana

FL0612030993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Spanish Prosecutor General Eligio Hernandez arrived in the country this afternoon at the invitation of Juan Escalona Reguera. During his stay in Cuba, Hernandez will meet with members of Cuba's judicial branch, Justice Minister Carlos Amat, and Jose Raul Amaro, president of the Governing Council of the Supreme People's Tribunal. Hernandez also will meet with Carlos Lage, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Cuban parliament members.

[Begin Hernandez recording] An international congress organized by the Attorney General's Office was held recently in Havana. They broached the issues of justice in cases involving juveniles and rights of the family. I have come here to exchange a few views that are the result of the congress as well as some views gathered from cases handled by the Prosecutor General's Office. [end recording]

Hernandez will visit sites of historic and tourist interest in Cuba and also will visit Havana and Matanzas, where he hopes to contact members of his family.

Lage Addresses Voluntary Labor Campaign Participants

FL0612154893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Carlos Lage, who is a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said yesterday that Cuba's biggest victory in the past three years lies in the fact that socialism's social accomplishments have not disappeared. Lage lectured to over 200 participants in a campaign of voluntary labor and theological (?reflection) being effected by believers [religiosos] at El Jaguey camp in San Antonio de los Banos. This campaign has been under way since 2 December.

Lage, who is also executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, reviewed the nation's economic situation for the participants and, at their request, evaluated efforts to pull out of the current times. The political leader said prospects are opening up and reiterated that we have come through the most difficult moments of our history and are already beginning to find a more diverse market.

Lage also pointed to the broad international support in solidarity with Cuba. He stressed that the Revolution has to continue applying measures but must also preserve its ideas having to do with social justice, ideas which we cannot relinquish.

Sees Better Economy in 1994

FL0612232793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] During a meeting held this past weekend with members of the Cuban Ecumenical Council, Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers, said that the most difficult economic times are behind us. Lage predicted that 1994 will be the beginning of better times for the country.

At the meeting, Carlos Lage mentioned several of the business and foreign exchange possibilities for the Cuban economy which can be carried out in 1994. Lage said that the economic recovery expected is not based on tourism alone.

[Begin Lage recording] We are going to see good results for the efforts we are making. In the past three years, we have seen tourism grow. More tourists are coming to the country every year. There are more tourists, and more money is left in the country by the tourists each year. Tourism can continue to grow and we will have a source of income we did not have in the past. I would even add that the people have become aware that tourism is something we need. Many people reject tourists. In the past even more people rejected tourists. However, they are beginning to understand the situation. No one likes to see a lot of foreigners coming to the country; but we are more and more convinced that we need those hotels and that income. We are winning the battle in making the people understand that tourism is necessary. Someday, once we have built more hotels, more Cubans will be able to go to them. The Revolution never planned to exclude the Cuban people from the hotels. For years we built hotels for the Cuban people and not for foreigners. The Revolution thought up the idea of tourism for the Cuban people. We built lots of hotels for local tourism. Even though it hurt us to do it, the serious and difficult situation forced the Revolution to assign the country's tourist resorts for the use of foreigners.

There are more and more people wanting to invest in hotels here in Cuba. There is growing interest in tourism here in Cuba. Tour companies and tourists are interested in coming to Cuba. More and more tourists come each year. We have something to work with, and this needs time to grow, mature, and become important.

The process of investment in Cuba is growing. More and more companies are interested in investing, and the business deals being discussed keep getting more and more important. This process also has become an income source for the country. We hope this process will continue to grow. The tendency this year has been toward growth.

For example, a few years ago the citrus sector was facing problems because we could not get the necessary fertilizers and chemical products. Now, we are associated with three important international companies, and these companies have helped find new markets and finance the citrus production.

The outlook is good. The overall picture is not as dark as it was a year ago. A year ago when, from one day to the next we found ourselves with nothing and not knowing if our ideas would be successful, the picture was much darker than today. Today we know that we were able to resist. What I must add is that we now know that we are strong enough to solve our problems. Some obstacles may be big, others may be smaller, but what we do know is that we can overcome them. [end recording]

'Believers' Perform Voluntary Labor

FL0612170593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Report by correspondent Nancy Lescaille]

[Text] Members of religious organizations making up the Ecumenical Council of Cuba have gathered at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Agriculture-Livestock Production Cooperative in San Antonio de los Banos to work in the food program for seven days. Over 200 believers [religiosos] from all the nation's provinces and the special municipality constituted by the Isle of Youth, with their leaders at their head and organized in mixed male/female brigades are cooperating at the Jaguey camp in attaining the 285,000 quintals of tubers, vegetables, and grains that the representatives of Cotorro Municipality, Havana City Province, have programmed.

The believers will work until Friday on a schedule that begins at 0630 and ends at 1330. After the agricultural day has ended, the believers participate in lectures, talks, and religious services inherent to each of the groups working in the fields. They also receive visits from government leaders, with whom they hold meetings that allow them to continue improving their understanding of the plans and objectives of our Revolution.

Reintegration Into World Economy To Be Examined

FL0612171793 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Members of the European Parliament [MEP] from the nations constituting the EEC and from our National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] will begin a workshop today [6 December] in the capital. This gathering of European and Cuban legislators, which will last until 9 December, is entitled: Cuba in the Nineties: Its Reintegration Into the International Economy and the Role of Europe. The 20 visiting MEP's, representing the European Parliament and the European Commission, will be accompanied by academics.

The ANPP will be represented by 20 deputies; academics and specialists on international economic and political matters will also be participating for Cuba in the workshop.

The workshop will have six main themes: Cuba's current economic situation, challenges and strategies, the costs of the blockade to Cuba, and third countries. The current state of Cuba's economic ties with Europe will also be discussed, as well as managerial cooperation.

The issues of Cuba's reintegration into the world economy and the normalization of relations of cooperation and development between the European Community and our country complete the agenda to be discussed by the Cuban and European MEP's, who will begin meeting today at the Hotel Nacional.

The participants in this workshop on the reinsertion of Cuba into the world economy of the nineties will meet with ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon and with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. The workshop is sponsored by the Institute for European-Latin American Relations, headquartered in Madrid, and Cuba's Center for European Studies, as well as by the Commission of the European Communities.

Defense Exercises Held; Havana Inspection Scheduled

FL0612170693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 06 Dec 93

[Text] Throughout Cuba, hundreds of thousands of men and women participated in Defense Day, a campaign during which satisfactory progress in the population's preparation for a war of the entire people was noted nationwide. Members of the Territorial Troops Militias and of the Production and Defense Brigades participated in the exercises, along with fighters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

During the Defense Day activities, it was learned that over half of the defense zones in the city of Havana have the status of Defense-Ready, Phase II. It was also announced that the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces is going to carry out an inspection in the

capital from 13 to 20 December, and that marks of no less than good are expected in this verification by the ministry.

Veterans Association To Aid Defense Zones

FL0612030193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 93

[Text] The main objective of the Veterans Association of the Cuban Revolution is to support the revolution in all areas. Ever since its creation at the base level, the association has demonstrated its importance in the current moments.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] This force represents an important potential in the ideological and political defense of the revolution and in the patriotic education of the future generations. From this point of view, I believe it is a great bastion in the defense of the Revolution. [end recording]

The Veterans Association in Ciego de Avila has also integrated itself with the defense zones with the purpose of passing on the experience and knowledge of its members. This force, which has more than 500,000 members throughout the country, has become a new shield in the defense of our achievements.

Bolivia

Vice President Conveys Satisfaction Over Elections Results

PY0712020193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The MRTK-L [Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement of Liberation], the party of Bolivian Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas, announced that it will vote for the top vote-getters in the municipal councils throughout the country.

The vice president expressed great satisfaction over the results of the 5 December elections:

[Begin recording] The ruling coalition has obtained much more than half of the municipal councils in the different departments, and we think it shows the generous support and confidence of the Bolivian people in the government and in its proposals for change. I think this should fill us with humility more than pride to correct some flaws and to continue working more vigorously and more enthusiastically to consolidate the democratic power. [end recording]

The MRTK-L, the vice president's party, won the municipal councils in Tarija and Sucre and in some provinces like Bermejo, Villazon, and [name indistinct].

We have asked the vice president whether his party will vote for the top vote-getters. He said:

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] We will support the party's candidate who obtained the first majority.

[Unidentified reporter] Even if he is from the opposition?

[Cardenas] Any winner, and wherever it may be. In Oruro, for instance, I think Barrientos Zapata won. We must respect the people's vote. We must avoid the little games in the council to elect the third or fourth runners-up to be mayor. This would imply weakening the people's desire. [end recording]

The vice president has based his position mainly on the call made last night by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada to all parties to vote for the top vote-getters.

Brazil

Trade Agreement Signed With Russia

PY0612181093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 93 p B16

[Article by William Waack]

[Text] Moscow—Brazil and Russia yesterday signed a trade agreement to increase, within a five-year period, annual trade from $200 million to $2 billion. Industry and Trade Minister Jose Eduardo de Andrade Vieira and Oleg Davydov, the Russian external economic relations minister, discussed the possibilities: space research, the transfer of supersonic airplane technology, and exports of Brazilian foodstuffs.

All this, however, still depends on an interbanking agreement that has not even been initiated.

The Monteiro Aranha Group took advantage of the minister's visit. This group has been negotiating for 18 months with the Russians over the purchase of war materiel with a view to assembling Russian MiG-29 supersonic fighters at the Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] facilities, as well as the purchase of ships and helicopters.

One of the minister's advisers said: "The group sought a fait accompli so the Armed Forces would approve these deals."

Vieira described as shameful the level of trade with Russia, "which is lower than that with Singapore which has one-fiftieth the population of Russia." The minister visited the Moscow Space Center and again heard Russians express huge interest in using the Alcantara base in Maranhao State for the iridium project. This project foresees placing in orbit about 60 communications satellites within the next two years. The minister said the proposal is good and he would present it to President Franco.

Diplomats familiar with this issue said the main obstacle to this project would be removed soon: The Brazilian Government is willing to join the Missile Technology Control Regime soon, accepting an international code that allows the transfer of the technology to build and operate missiles to third parties.

Concerning a report on the assembly of the MiG-29 by Embraer, Vieira stated: "It is a deal between a Brazilian entrepreneurial group and a Russian group."

Ordnance Enterprises Express 'Surprise' Over Russian Deal

PY0612194493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 93 p B16

[Article by Julio Ottoboni]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Leading Brazilian ordnance enterprises reacted with surprise to the possibility of military deals between Brazil and Russia. They fear the importation of products that are being manufactured or may be manufactured by a sector that already faces a serious crisis following the end of the Middle East conflicts.

Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] refused to comment on the possibility that Russian MiG-29 supersonic fighters may be assembled in its hangars. This state-run company currently produces—in partnership with Italy—the AMX subsonic fighter plane, which is Embraer's only air-combat plane.

Avibras Aeroespacial Vice President Rubens Porto said his company, which produces the Astros-2 multiple rocket launcher system, is not involved. Porto is more concerned about the cutbacks to be made in the 1994 budget. Avibras Aeroespacial was Brazil's main exporter in the 1980's and is trying to overcome the crisis. Porto said: "Sales are slow, the market is very difficult." Avibras Aeroespacial has made an investment abroad in trying to sell its latest product, the FOG [Fiber Optic Guided] missile and hopes to recover this outlay in sales to the Middle East and Africa.

Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], which recently went bankrupt, dominated the international light tank market during the past decade. Engesa is awaiting decisions by the federal government before reactivating its line of products and fears competing, at a disadvantage, with Russian tanks and armored vehicles.

The Army vehicles produced by Engesa are reaching the end of their useful life and the Brazilian Government may choose a batch of imported vehicles, overlooking home-produced armored vehicles.

Chile

Colombian President Arrives, Discusses Escobar Slaying

PY0612194793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria has stated that criminals cannot fight against the state.

Gaviria, who has arrived in Santiago, asserted that the death of the head of the Medellin cartel, Pablo Escobar, has proven that there is no group that can act with impunity. Reports from Colombia indicate that according to his sister, Pablo Escobar was not killed by elite military forces, but committed suicide.

The visit by the Colombian chief of state to Chile falls within the framework of a commercial agreement and efforts to tighten to an even greater extent the relations between the two countries.

President Cesar Gaviria asserted that following the death of Medellin cartel leader Pablo Escobar, he will continue to implement his government's policy against drug trafficking and terrorism. Gaviria made this statement after being welcomed at the Arturo Merino Benitez Airport by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We are satisfied with the fact that our security policies and the strengthening of our justice system have finally wiped out what up to a few days ago was known as the Medellin cartel, which was fully dismantled during this process. We will continue implementing our policy against drug trafficking, and will continue fighting all criminal organizations. [end recording]

President Gaviria admitted that the death of the so-called coca king [word indistinct] symbolic nature due to the size of the organization he headed within the field of international drug trafficking. Regarding the consequences Escobar's death will have on Colombia's security, Gaviria admitted that it could be affected, but stated emphatically that the law will be fully enforced.

During the almost two-day visit to Chile, President Gaviria will meet with Chilean businessmen and with President Patricio Aylwin.

Today the two presidents will witness the signing of the economic cooperation agreement by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin de Rubio.

President Gaviria stated that he hoped this agreement would in the near future lead to great economic agreement on the continental level.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We hope this agreement will result in smooth trade between Chile and Colombia, which will broaden the possibilities of a great free trade agreement in the continent. We greatly admire the way in which the Chilean economy has been administered by the Chilean people and government. We have the strong support of the Colombian people to make progress in this process. [end recording]

The purpose of the economic cooperation agreement is to begin to establish a free trade zone between the two countries as of 1 January 1994, and which is to be fully implemented on 1 January 1999.

Colombia's Gaviria, Aylwin Sign Commercial Accord

PY0612194993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria signed a comprehensive free trade agreement that enhances those signed with Venezuela and Argentina and the one currently being negotiated with Ecuador.

The chiefs of state voiced their desire that, within the medium term, our entire continent will become a free trade zone.

President Gaviria praised President Aylwin for the exemplary way in which he led his country toward democracy.

Referring to the death of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, Gaviria denied rumors that Escobar committed suicide and confirmed that he died during a clash. He said the important thing is that the Medellin cartel, the largest criminal organization in the world, has been dismantled.

Aylwin Praises Bilateral Accord

PY0712015693 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Chile and Colombia today signed an economic complementation agreement that will reduce tariffs to zero within four years. The exemptions from tariffs are textiles, energy products, and agricultural products on a price list.

The Colombian and Chilean presidents, Cesar Gaviria and Patricio Aylwin, respectively, and the two countries' foreign ministers gave solemnity to the ceremony.

President Aylwin referred to the agreements signed in the following terms:

[Begin recording] It is not easy to sign this type of agreement. The limitations imposed by the available human resources, the internal political problems, and groups' resistance in the two countries show its complexity. And we also will have to resolve the problems to be encountered in the future process of negotiations regarding services and other aspects of bilateral relations. [end recording]

Aylwin said, however, that the process taking place in Latin America has positive aspects:

[Begin recording] You Colombians with Venezuela and we Chileans with Argentina are changing the history of integration. With our neighboring countries we are giving impulse to a great process in neighboring relations. The mistrust and instability of the past are giving way to mutual understanding and trust. [end recording]

Aylwin said the agreements were possible because the prevailing democracy is now being consolidated in the continent.

Colombian President Cesar Gaviria reviewed the history of his country by saying:

[Begin recording in progress] united to our effort to strengthen the institutions that administer justice and the new approach on security matters, have allowed us to put impunity on the way out. I believe the recent well-known events show that no criminal organization, no matter how powerful, can challenge our state of law. [end recording]

Gaviria concluded his speech by paying homage to Patricio Aylwin, whom he labeled a great among the great, and an example of service, knowledge, and balance. In reference to Aylwin, President Gaviria said: You are already part of the history of the Americas.

Government Officially Recognizes PLO

PY0712021193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] The Chilean Government has officially recognized the PLO. This information was disclosed at the Foreign Ministry today. The government, through Decree No. 1414 of 12 November, made the recognition official with the signature of President Patricio Aylwin and Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

The General Comptroller's Office was informed of the decree that recognizes the PLO as the representative of Palestinians living in Chile. The recognition means granting the PLO office the immunities and privileges established by the 1971 Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations. Such privileges will be granted starting 7 December after the decree is published in the official gazette.

The official recognition was made at the time when PLO Foreign Minister Faruk Qaddumi is making an official visit to Chile. Diplomatic observers said Qaddumi's visit can be seen as PLO recognition of the Chilean Government for its permanent commitment to the cause of the Arab countries and the Palestinian people. The observers indicated that the PLO clearly realizes that the Chilean Government is one of the few that gave decisive support to the peace process in the Middle East. The Chilean Government also appears as permanently supporting UN resolutions for peace in the Middle East.

With the official Chilean recognition of the PLO, the government will begin to grant privileges such as immunity and diplomatic passports, among other things. Chilean conduct toward the PLO is in accordance with a plan for rapprochement with the Arab countries and Israel, said Chilean Foreign Ministry spokesmen. Chile has diplomatic relations and embassies at the highest level with six countries in that region: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia, where Chile has ambassadors or charge d'affaires.

Peru

Drug Traffickers Escape After FAP Forces Plane Down

PA0612152293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0117 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Lima, 5 Dec (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that Peruvian Air Force [FAP] planes fired warning shots at a drug traffickers' light plane of Colombian registry, forcing it to make a forced landing on a clandestine strip. The plane landed in the area of Nueva Italia, in the jungle of Ucayali Department. The plane's occupants escaped after setting the aircraft on fire with the help of drug traffickers on the site, according to military sources quoted by the state news agency ANDINA.

The report says the light plane had been fitted to carry drugs. FAP reportedly is searching the area from the air and on the ground for the plane's occupants and the men who helped them set the plane on fire and escape.

The coca shrub is grown in the Peruvian jungle and Colombian drug traffickers send light planes to pick up the basic coca paste, which is prepared by macerating

coca leaves. Once refined, the coca paste is turned into high-grade cocaine at Colombian labs, according to authorities.

Venezuela

CSE Issues First Bulletin on Results; Caldera Leads

PA0612125693 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1214 GMT 6 Dec 93

["Official bulletin" read by Dr. Isidro Morales Paul, president of the Venezuelan Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, at the CSE Headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] Bulletin No. 1: Results of the presidential elections. Republic of Venezuela, Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], Directorate of Analysis and Programming, Vote-counting System for Presidential Election. Number of electoral certificates counted: 2,250; number of valid votes: 570,499; number of null votes: 14,307; number of votes counted: 584,806.

Names of Candidates:	Number of Votes:	Percentage: Rafael Caldera
	162,698	28.51
Andres Velasquez	152,275	26.69
Oswaldo Alvarez Paz	125,929	22.07
Claudio Fermin	119,116	20.87
Nelson Ojeda Valenzuela	3,225	0.56
Modesto Rivero	2,070	0.36
Luis Alberto Machado	1,384	0.24
Fernando Bianco	1,049	0.18
Jose Antonio Cova	723	0.12
Rona Ottolina	575	0.10
Gabriel Puerta Aponte	444	0.07
Blas Garcia Nunez	218	0.03
Romulo Abreu Duarte	214	0.03
Jesus Tam	160	0.02
Juan Chassin	140	0.02
Carmen de Gonzalez	117	0.02
Felix Diaz Ortega	86	0.01
Temistocles Fernandez	76	0.01

CSE Official: Next Bulletin To Be Released at Noon

PA0612160693 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1410 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Anibal Latuff, first vice president of the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, by Carla Spector at the CSE Headquarters in Caracas and by Julio Cesar in the studios—live]

[Text] [Cesar] Good morning, Carla.

[Spector] Good morning, Julio Cesar.

[Cesar] A few moments ago the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] issued the first bulletin confirming that Rafael Caldera is holding first place in the vote count, followed by Andres Velasquez, Alvarez Paz, and Claudio Fermin. Is this correct?

[Spector] Yes, it is. At this moment I am with Anibal Latuff, first vice president of the CSE, who I would like to ask approximately how long it will take before further bulletins are released to keep us abreast of whether the vote count percentages remain the same or whether there are variations throughout the day. Dr. Latuff, please explain how long it will take before updated bulletins are released, whether a considerable number of electoral certificates have arrived, and if you will be able to promptly issue bulletins.

[Latuff] That is right, Carla. We are receiving a large number of electoral certificates. The delays in the vote count yesterday prevented the departure of airplanes from 53 airports prepared for afternoon take-offs with but 18 [number as heard] pouches. The operation was somewhat complicated. From 0700 today, however, airplanes have been arriving from all over the country with substantial numbers of electoral certificates. At 1200 [1600 GMT] we will release a bulletin with significant information concerning the total vote count and once this is done, there will be additional information every hour and a half to two hours. Today you will have a trustworthy, permanent, and fluid source of information concerning the electoral process.

[Spector] When will we have the results of the entire 23,097 electoral certificates from all over the country?

[Latuff] If the electoral certificates continue arriving at the rate at which they are coming, I believe that by day's end we will be very close to issuing the final bulletin on the presidential race.

[Spector] Julio Cesar, do you have any questions from the studio?

[Cesar] Yes, of course, especially concerning the interior of the country. Good morning, Dr. Latuff.

[Latuff] Good morning, Julio Cesar.

[Cesar] I would like to know if there is any initial information concerning the elections in Zulia State because there is still a lot of uncertainty concerning the elections there. Do you have any figures from Zulia?

[Latuff] I was just informed that an Armed Forces plane is landing at this moment and it is bringing approximately 2,000 electoral certificates, which is a substantial amount, from Zulia and some of the western areas. Therefore, I believe the noon bulletin will contain considerable information from that area, especially Zulia State.

[Cesar] Then the CSE's next network will be at noon?

[Latuff] We are preparing a significant bulletin with conclusive figures for the noon report. We will thus make up somewhat for yesterday's delays. I must point out, Julio Cesar, to you who has such a large audience, that Venezuela is one of the few countries where the CSE dares to promise results on the same day or the day after on uninominal elections. I have witnessed elections in the United States, where the U.S. Federal Elections Commission issues results four of five days after the elections because uninominal elections are quite complex and in the United States the people vote by referendum on various issues.

The American people have confidence in the information systems of the news media and organizations that specialize in these kinds of polls. Exit polls in the United States and the flashes given from every voting table are trustworthy in the Anglo-Saxons' idiosyncrasy. They do not expect official results until several days after the elections. Nevertheless, our idiosyncrasy is different. We are reluctant to accept that the news media can gather large amounts of information within a shorter time, even though their information is unofficial. Therefore, we should change a little; it is a matter of political culture.

As the elections become more complex, as the number of uninominal candidates to the different houses of congress increase, and referendums are included, we must gradually change our political culture. Many people ask me why they should trust small samples which, it is constantly repeated, have margins of error. I always tell them that I am a doctor and I never draw 5 liters of blood from anyone to find out how many red cells they have. I take a drop of blood and using a special chamber and a microscope I calculate how many red cells are in the person's body. If you are making soup and you want to know how it tastes, you do not drink all of it. You drink a spoonful and you know how it tastes.

[Cesar] Dr. Latuff, you have been very kind. Thank you very much. We will wait on the next bulletin at noon and, as you said, we will be expecting more specific information from Zulia State.

[Latuff] Thank you very much, Julio Cesar.

[Cesar] Until later. Thanks also to our reporter Carla Spector for this bulletin and interview from the CSE.

Rafael Caldera Holds News Conference

PA0612172993 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1555 GMT 6 Dec 93

[News Conference by Rafael Caldera, National Convergence presidential candidate, with unidentified moderator and local reporters at the National Convergence headquarters in Caracas; from "The Observer" newscast; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Caldera] ...that I had been elected president of Venezuela. I am sorry that I had been unable to do so, but also I have compensation which in the long run, I tolerated stoically the pushes that almost made me lose the possibility of voting at the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]. [sentence as heard] I can assure you that I am rather scared of cameramen, with their huge camera equipment that weighs tons, and which could cause one to suffer a fracture if one gets hit on the head. I want to tell you that I am very pleased, not only personally, but for my country. I think that we have really carried out a great event for the country, as is reported by the media today. I am willing to answer any of your questions gladly. I hope that during the term entrusted to me by the people, my relations with the representatives of the social media will be most cordial. I am ready for the first question.

[Samuel Belilty of Caracas Radio Caracas Television, identified by caption] Good afternoon, Mr. President. First of all, I want to tell you that on the part of the shoving and blows, we cameramen fully support you. [laughter] Mr. President, one of the basic reasons that many persons were opposed to the possibility of your becoming president was concern for who would be governing with you. This is because many of the members of the parties that support you today are people who were even your enemies yesterday. My question is: What will the composition of your cabinet be? Will it be made up of those former enemies, by members of the Communist Party, or perhaps of the Copei [Social Christian Party], which you have strongly defeated? Another important question is regarding the social welfare system, which is a source of great concern to private enterprise, and which has a lot to do with the law that you proposed. I want to know if you would be willing to redraft the law that was issued by you?

[Caldera] Where is your camera, by the way?

[Moderator] Will the Caracas Radio cameraman raise his hand? Thank you, Mr. President.

[Caldera] I don't want to be looking in another direction. [laughter]

[Moderator] That is right. [laughs] [applause]

[Caldera] My first observation is that he has broken the rule established by the moderator. I do not know what we are going to do about this. He said that each one was entitled to ask one question and you have asked two questions. I do not know if we can reach a cordial agreement on this. I will accept both questions now, but I ask that the succeeding newsmen abide by the moderator who said you are allowed one question.

[Belilty] Thank you, Mr. President, excuse me.

[Caldera] Both questions are as follows: One has to do with the cabinet composition. I have said and will reiterate now that I have not negotiated power quotas with any of the groups that support me. [applause] I hope to appoint a cabinet that is new, capable, vigorous, responsible, and honest, without classifying it by party membership or party leaning. I have an obligation with the groups that support me to maintain the position I

have maintained throughout the electoral campaign and which caused them to give me their support.

The distribution of power quotas, however, have never been present throughout my campaign. I want you to understand, of course, and ask you to reserve the right for me to seriously consider all the prospects and possibilities in order to announce the cabinet when the power transition takes place. I also want to insist on something that I have reiterated but which I think does not hurt to say again. Ramon J. Velasquez continues to be president of the Republic of Venezuela. I have been elected, but it is not up to me to make decisions yet. What I have to do is give Dr. Velasquez all the support and all the cooperation that he requests. Certainly, or better said, I have learned that he is in the best disposition to consider the viewpoints of me and my government team for the important decisions that may affect the march of the country for the coming term.

Regarding social welfare benefits, I have spoken about that topic many times. When the new labor law was drafted, a topic of discussion was how to maintain the social welfare system that was established in 1974. We were unable to reach any agreement. I then proposed the introduction of a special article in the labor law, which permits modifying the social welfare regime with a special law, without the need of reforming or touching the basic law. I am not opposed to this. To the contrary, I am in favor of having this subject discussed and analyzed in a climate that will be more constructive than when the labor law was approved. I am not opposed to any formula that is achieved through consensus. Of course, this is provided that it will not take away the rights acquired by the workers or that it be imposed as a coercive measure, but rather that it will be the result of an agreement which is indispensable. I think that the people who want peace, want labor peace also, between the rich and the working class.

CSE Official Explains Reasons for Vote Count Delay

PA0612185793 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1650 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Anibal Latuff, first vice president of the Supreme Electoral Council by Lucy Faustino, at the CSE headquarters in Caracas; from "The Observer" newscast—live]

[Text] [Faustino] I am with Anibal Latuff, Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] first vice president, who will explain the reasons for the delay in counting the votes for president.

[Latuff] There are a number of reasons, all of them understandable. First of all, the number of voters was unexpected. All of the predicted abstention figures, between 30 and 40 percent, were wiped out by the voters' mass participation.

Another reason is that we had difficult-to-handle instruments. Although the CSE had again and again asked the people to put themselves into the proper frame of mind to vote, voters spent longer than expected behind the curtain. According to previous electoral experiences, we had estimated an average time of between 1.8 and 2.1 minutes for every voter behind the curtain. This average rose to more than 4 minutes at many voting centers. Of course, this accumulated excess time represents a considerable delay in the voting process when you consider an average of 400 voters at each center.

When the voting ended and there were no more people standing in line waiting to cast their votes—the process in some centers ended at 1930—the vote count process commenced. This included the preparation of the electoral certificates and the logistics of the Republic Plan, which called for the electoral certificates to depart from more than 50 local airports to the CSE headquarters. This operation backfired when many planes could not depart because the airports had no facilities for night operations. Others, which had taken off, were forced back due to poor weather.

[Faustino] How many electoral certificates have arrived so far and how many are still to arrive?

[Latuff] We have received nearly 17,000 certificates, close to 60 percent. It is important for the public to understand the fact that we have received a large number of certificates does not mean we can issue a bulletin as soon as we receive them. The received certificates are handled by two commissions. A juridical commission checks every certificate's legal aspects, such as signatures, stamps, completeness, and so on. Then it is handed over to a commission in charge of approving the figures contained in the certificate. The certificate's information is entered into the computer. Only then are we able to have figures for the bulletins you journalists receive.

[Faustino] How many certificates have been rejected so far?

[Latuff] As a matter of principle, no certificates are rejected. They are put under observation. The legal commission reports on the certificate's deficiencies and determines how many of them can be corrected. As you know, a good electoral system is marked by the elimination of the least possible number of certificats. According to the old law, however, the CSE had no authority to cancel certificates or results. It was necessary to wait for the Supreme Court of Justice to make a pronouncement. This delayed the process tremendously and, even worse, certificates were often eliminated because a minor had voted or a living person had acted on behalf of a dead one, for instance, thus wiping out the will of maybe 400 voters. All of these things were corrected in the new law. Consequently, there are no rejected certificates as such. They are being studied to determine the difficulties. I can tell you, however, that more than 12,000 certificates have been processed and their results are ready for the bulletin. So we expect to have a bulletin with substantial figures in a few minutes.

[Faustino] When will the final bulletin for the entire country be ready?

[Latuff] If we keep working at the same speed and if not many certificates are challenged, we can complete the count of the presidential vote today. The congressional vote count will take longer. As you know, this is a difficult count because we are handling five counts at the same time. The vote count for senator will be relatively simple because there is a blocked and closed list. But there are two other types of vote count, the list deputies and the uninominal deputies.

Once the latter are accounted for, their number is subtracted from the parties that carry this number. Then the winning deputies are determined by the Hunt index. Finally, we come to the Legislative Assembly deputies. Of course, they are also split, one part according to list and one part uninominal. The same procedure follows. Once the list deputies are accounted for, their number is subtracted from the uninominal figure. This is a somewhat more elaborate process. Although the people are competent and were given many workshops, some more time will be required.

Radical Cause Candidate Velasquez Admits Defeat

PA0612201193 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1628 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Statement by Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause presidential candidate, at the party headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] Good afternoon, companeros. I wish to start this news conference with a statement. All the media have described us as an electoral phenomenon. I reject this label. I wish to say that Radical Cause is a political project and not an electoral phenomenon. This is a political project we proposed to the country for a change, which, unfortunately, was not effected on this occasion. We must take into consideration the position we hold at present and the fact that Radical Cause and Andres Velasquez are the most important political opposition force in this country, first because we hold the parliamentarian majority and, second, because Andres Velasquez begins to emerge as a figure just entering into the Venezuelan people's hearts. These aspects are very important for us in this electoral process.

I wish to thank the Venezuelan people in general for their civic behavior during the elections and for their eagerness, which silenced the ominous voices that said we would not even have elections. I wish also to give special thanks to the people of Guayana, the majority of whom voted in a great solidarity of our work labor companions. The government experience we have been stimulating there is what determined the close to 70 percent of voter turnout we received in Guayana. I especially wish to thank Monagas State for its solidarity with us. Then come Anzoategui State, where I was born, and Caracas. I can say that, with this victory in [words indistinct] and Guayana, Caracas and Guayana are not alone anymore, but accompanied by other states.

In this case, I extend my special appreciation to Miranda, Aragua, Carabobo, and to those states that identified unflinchingly with the proposal for change that we have made. In this manner, therefore, we can shout from Guayana that we are not alone in the country and that this proposal is understood clearly and perfectly. Third, I want to talk about the process itself. The process, I must say, had irregularities. I want to say so emphatically in this case. Let us look at the following aspects. I regret—because of the concern that it causes me—that, outside of the electoral authorities, there are other factors that prompted a candidate's proclamation. By this I want to state clearly and to state calmly—I said so last night and I have reiterated it throughout the course of the campaign—that according to the results of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], I would recognize whoever was the winner. I said that Andres Velasquez had the necessary condition, that Andres Velasquez would have the gallantry, the nobleness, the courage to recognize any adversary of ours that won. Last night, when I said at the last news conference held that I did not recognize Dr. Caldera until such time a bulletin was issued by the CSE, according to the CSE bulletin, it turns out I was right. Dr. Caldera won over Andres Velasquez by a margin of 10 percent. This is a very close margin. Indeed I was right. The CSE bulletins don't even have a 2 [percentage] point difference between Dr. Caldera and Andres Velasquez, in this case. It ends up I was right.

According to polls, which we ourselves are managing, this close margin is being maintained and could be maintained, according to our projections, with an advantage for Dr. Caldera. That is the reason why I admit and recognize Dr. Rafael Caldera's victory in this case.

I want to state this clearly and add the following observation. I regret, however, that other factors instead of the electoral authority caused a candidate's proclamation. Of course, I could not lend myself to this, because it is a very poor precedent. What would be the use, then, of the millions spent by the nation, the republic, the hundreds, the thousands of millions of bolivares spent to carry out an electoral process, which in the end does not have any veracity.

Second, for the first time in our electoral history, the CSE did not issue a bulletin the same night of the elections. We had to wait until the following day. We all know what would have happened if, last night when a candidate was proclaiming himself, the CSE had released a bulletin that the margin was not even a two point difference between Caldera and I. The entire country would have been gripped with uncertainty. This is why I was correct in not lending myself to such a thing. Again, I repeat, I reject the label of immature which Dr. Caldera gave me. I reject it, because if he considers the attitude assumed by me is immature, then I would have to say it is irresponsible, to say the least, that a candidate in such an important, stellar event, should proclaim himself the

winner, based on external factors that are not the ones stemming from the electoral authorities.

Copei Candidate Alvarez Paz Congratulates Caldera

PA0612191593 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1710 GMT 6 Dec 93

[News conference by Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, Social Christian Party, Copei, presidential candidate, with unidentified reporters at the Supreme Electoral Council headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Alvarez Paz] I would like to make a brief statement. Now that the election is over and the trend toward a victory by Dr. Rafael Caldera has been confirmed by the Supreme Electoral Council as well as by our [Social Christian Party] computer system, I consider it my duty to express the following thoughts to the country:

1. I congratulate Dr. Caldera for his victory and I wish him success and strength as he undertakes the difficult tasks assigned to him by the nation. The people have spoken and I will adhere to their decision. Upon opening up broad and favorable prospects for the government [Caldera] will preside over, I must reject the inconsiderate insults leveled against me by the president-elect. His attitude is incomprehensible under the so very delicate and complex situation the country is experiencing. The new president should be aware that he was elected by the votes of a minority, and Venezuela urgently needs a sincere nationwide reconciliation.

2. I thank all of the political, economic, and social organizations that supported me, and the hundreds of thousands of independents who entrusted me with their confidence and selfless support.

3. I must especially acknowledge the Social Christian Party, Copei; its national directorate; its regional, municipal, and rank and file directorates; and especially its activists and supporters. To its noble and loyal founders, I extend my limitless gratitude.

My pledge continues. Copei will continue to be the sword and shield of people of good will. By denying me the victory I so zealously sought, Venezuela has called on me to serve it from new and different perspectives. One can serve the country in many ways.

5. [number as heard] A final word of commitment and eternal gratitude to all the people of Venezuela for the example they set during yesterday's elections, and especially to the noble people of Zulia who once again so strongly supported me in this undertaking. I reiterate, you will never regret having had confidence in me.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Alvarez Paz] If you ask these questions one at a time I will be able to respond.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Alvarez Paz] I did not understand a single word you said.

[Reporter] Will you adopt a conciliatory attitude toward the new president since he has called for reconciliation in order to overcome the country's problems?

[Alvarez Paz] I believe that is what Venezuela expects: a new phase of reconciliation and solidarity that will make unity a reality based on solid foundations.

Now, there is no harm in remembering that unity cannot be built with arrogance and prepotency. Andres Velasquez and I were unjustly attacked yesterday, at a time when the entire country was expecting displays of solidarity and reconciliation. I have no wounds in my heart or scars on my soul. The controversy is over, the campaign has concluded, and I will make every effort to help those who are seriously interested in building a better future for this country.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Alvarez Paz] Why do you speak for Caldera? He has not said anything yet.

[Reporter] What will Copei do following this new defeat?

[Alvarez] I have said all that I am going to say today.

CSE President Morales Issues Latest Vote Count 'Bulletin'

PA0612195693 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1853 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Statement by Isidro Morales Paul, Venezuelan Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, president, at the CSE headquarters in Caracas—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...total votes counted, 1,338,455.

Name of candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage
Rafael Caldera	395,970	30.47
Andres Velasquez	326,651	25.14
Oswaldo Alvarez Paz	287,351	22.12
Claudio Fermin	268,328	20.65
Nelson Ojeda Valenzuela	6,522	0.5
Modesto Rivero	4,495	0.3
Luis Alberto Machado	2,396	0.18
Fernando Bianco	1,971	0.1
Jose Antonio Cova	1,444	0.1
Rona Ottolina	1,127	0.08
Gabriel Puerta Aponte	883	0.06
Romulo Abreu Duarte	445	0.03
Blas Garcia Nunez	412	0.03
Jesus Tang	357	0.02

Name of candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage
Juan Chacin	272	0.02
Carmen Gonzalez	265	0.02
Felix Diaz Ortega	228	0.01
Temistocles Fernandez	157	0.01

[Unidentified moderator] The Supreme Electoral Council Information Service, through the national network of radio and television stations, has broadcast an official bulletin on the results of the 1993 presidential elections. Thank you for listening.

CSE President Morales on Vote Counting, Future Bulletins

PA0612202893 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1917 GMT 6 Dec 93

[News conference by Isidro Morales Paul, Venezuelan Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, president, with unidentified reporters at the CSE headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Morales] Good afternoon, gentlemen. I wish only to report to you that the vote counting process continues normally. We have just issued a bulletin that accounts for 1,300,000 votes. We expect to release another approximately at 1800 [2200 GMT], also with a significant number of votes, and yet another at 2200. This is what we have estimated for today.

Three of the four main candidates have already recognized the virtual winner of the elections. All of them have visited us at the CSE. We have demonstrated, beyond a shadow of a doubt, absolute purity in the handling of the election results. All of the political parties are represented at the various control stages. There are approximately 1,300 electoral certificates with numerical mistakes. The CSE members have unanimously determined that these certificates are completely valid and that must be taken into consideration.

[Reporter] Why is the vote counting process taking so long? Please talk to us about the margin of difference with regard to Radical Cause. Both Andres Velasquez and President Caldera have said the difference between the two is not the one reported to the media.

[Morales] I will stick to the bulletin figures. According to them, President Caldera received 30.47 percent and Velasquez received 25.14 percent. This does not necessarily mean there cannot be variations in the bulletins released. Anyway, there is a marked trend pointing to specific results.

[Reporter] Why has the process taken so long?

[Morales] That must be discussed with the winner. We think the winner can be proclaimed in about 10 days after the final results have been confirmed.

[Reporter] Please tell us about the degree of participation or abstention?

[Morales] We have asked the Armed Forces to act with the greatest restraint. I believe their participation can be dispensed with completely tomorrow.

[Reporter] Does the CSE have any figures on participation and abstention?

[Morales] All we have is speculation, not firm figures for the time being. We can say, however, that a significant number of people voted.

[Reporter] Will the 2200 bulletin be the final one?

[Morales] We must speak clearly. We should have really said that all of the results would be released today. We have received about 19,000 electoral certificates. This represents more than 90 percent. All I can do is quote the bulletins. You will have to draw your own conclusions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Morales] Please do not talk to me all at once.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Morales] The 2200 bulletin will be very significant. We could issue another tomorrow if it proves necessary.

[Reporter] Will other bulletins be issued today?

[Morales] At 1800 and 2200.

Electoral Council Issues Bulletin No. 3 on Official Results

PA0612232093 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2238 GMT 6 Dec 93

["Official Bulletin" read by Sobella Mejias Lisett, secretary general of the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) at CSE headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] Republic of Venezuela, CSE, Directorate of Analysis and Programming, Vote-Counting System for the 1993 presidential election.

Bulletin No. 3: Venezuelan Presidential Elections.

Number of electoral certificates counted: 6,276

Number of valid votes: 1,593,878

Number of null votes: 50,390

Number of votes counted: 1,644,268

Names of Candidates:	Number of Votes:	Percentage:
Rafael Caldera	498,371	31.26
Andres Velasquez	377,830	23.70
Oswaldo Alvarez Paz	356,704	22.38
Claudio Fermin	336,932	21.13
Nelson Ojeda Valenzuela	7,224	0.45
Modesto Rivero	5,577	0.35

Names of Candidates:	Number of Votes:	Percentage:
Luis Alberto Machado	2,671	0.16
Fernando Bianco	2,181	0.13
Jose Antonio Cova	1,626	0.10
Rona Ottolina	1,267	0.07
Gabriel Puerta Aponte	1,077	0.06
Romulo Abreu Duarte	504	0.03
Blas Garcia Nunez	450	0.028
Jesus Tam	410	0.026
Juan Chassin	310	0.019
Carmen de Gonzalez	306	0.019
Felix Diaz Ortega	257	0.016
Temistocles Fernandez	181	0.011

Social Christian Party Recognizes Caldera 'Victory'

PA0712025993 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[From "The Observer" newscast]

[Text] Hilarion Cardozo, president of Copei [Social Christian Party], has recognized the victory of the dissident founder of his party.

[Begin Cardozo recording] Even though the Supreme Electoral Council has not yet issued a definitive bulletin, the bulletins that it has issued show a clear trend. Our own vote-counting systems speak of an irreversible nature of the trend; our presidential candidate and we have decided to formally, clearly, and definitely recognize the victory of Rafael Caldera. [end recording]

Business, Labor Sectors Recognize Caldera 'Victory'

PA0712032093 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Report by Vilma Monroy; from "The Observer" newscast]

[Text] The country's business and labor sectors have recognized Rafael Caldera's victory in yesterday's elections.

[Begin recording] [Edgardo Romero Nava, president of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Fedecamaras] The people of Venezuela have decided who their next president will be, and we all have to support him.

[Unidentified reporter] What does Fedecamaras expect from the new president?

[Romero] We expect a program to fight inflation. All Venezuelans want a more valuable currency that is not devaluated so much. We want our currency to have purchasing power; we all have to fight for that. We want a government that can give us personal security. We want a government whose priorities are education and health. Undoubtedly, this will improve the Venezuelan people's quality of life.

[Angel Zerpa Mirabal, president of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, CTV] We must recognize that it was a wide, genuine victory. We must recognize that President Caldera has enough merits to govern this country in a time of crisis. He is a man with credibility. The Venezuelan labor movement, which has always had good relations with him at the CTV, hopes to have the best of relations with him in each one of the circumstances, such as the discussion of the basic labor code. [end recording]

Both Fedecamaras and the CTV are willing to participate in a national understanding announced by President-elect Rafael Caldera to push the country forward.

Electoral Council Issues Bulletin No. 4 on Official Results

PA0712142793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1258 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Caracas, 7 Dec (EFE)—According to Bulletin No. 4, that the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] released in Caracas today, Rafael Caldera leads the 5 December elections with 30.26 percent of the vote and is virtually the new president of Venezuela. These are the figures released by the CSE:

Candidates:	Votes:	Percentage:
Rafael Caldera	934,092	30.26
Claudio Fermin	747,551	24.22
Oswaldo Alvarez Paz	724,623	23.47
Andres Velasquez	641,949	20.80